MONTHLY RESPIRATORY PATHOGENS SURVEILLANCE **REPORT**



SOUTH AFRICA WEEK 35 2021

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Summary of laboratory 17-18 confirmed SARS-CoV-2 cases

CUMULATIVE DATA FROM





HIGHLIGHTS: WEEK 35

- · RSV activity remains below seasonal threshold in both influenza-like illness (ILI) and pneumonia surveillance programmes.
- Eight new cases of influenza from Western Cape (n=4), Gauteng (n=3) and KwaZulu-Natal (n=1) surveillance sites were detected in week35. To date, 85 influenza cases have been detected from Gauteng, Western Cape, North West, Eastern Cape, Mpumalanga and KwaZulu-Natal sentinel surveillance sites. The influenza season has not started.
- From 2 March 2020 to 5 September 2021, a total of 2 740 COVID-19 cases were detected from all surveillance programmes. A decline in detection rate has been noted in both ILI programme and pneumonia surveillance in week35. Of the 1 774 hospitalised COVID-19 cases reported with available data on outcome, 299 (17%) died.

PROGRAMME DESCRIPTIONS

Programme	Influenza-like illness (ILI)	Viral Watch	National syndromic surveillance for pneumonia
Start year	2012	1984	2009
Provinces*	KZ NW WC** MP***	EC FS GP LP MP NC NW	GP KZ MP NW WC
Type of site	Primary health care clinics	General practitioners	Public hospitals
Case definition	ILI: An acute respiratory illness with a temperature (≥38°C) and cough, & onset ≤10 days	ILI: An acute respiratory illness with a temperature (≥38°C) and cough, & onset ≤10 days	SRI: Acute (symptom onset≤10 days) or chronic (symptom onset >10) lower respiratory tract infection
	Suspected pertussis Any person with an acute cough illness lasting ≥14 days (or cough illness of any duration for children <1 year), without a more likely diagnosis AND one or more of the following signs or symptoms: • paroxysms of coughing, • or inspiratory "whoop", • or post-tussive vomiting • or apnoea in children <1 year; OR Any person in whom a clinician suspects pertussis Suspected SARS-CoV-2	Suspected SARS-CoV-2	Suspected pertussis Any person with an acute cough illness lasting ≥14 days (or cough illness of any duration for children <1 year), without a more likely diagnosis AND one or more of the following signs or symptoms: • paroxysms of coughing, • or inspiratory "whoop", • or post-tussive vomiting • or apnoea in children <1 year; OR Any person in whom a clinician suspects pertussis. Suspected SARS-CoV-2
	Any person presenting with an acute (≤14 days) respiratory tract infection or other clinical illness compatible with COVID-19 ^β	Any person presenting with an acute (≤14 days) respiratory tract infection or other clinical illness compatible with COVID-19 ^β	Any person admitted with a physician-diagnosis of suspected COVID-19 and not meeting SRI case definition.
Specimens collected	Oropharyngeal & nasopharyngeal swabs	Throat and/or nasal swabs or Nasopharyngeal swabs	Oropharyngeal & nasopharyngeal swabs
Main pathogens tested****	INF RSV BP SARS-CoV-2	INF RSV BP SARS-CoV-2	INF RSV BP SARS-CoV-2

Epidemic Threshold

Thresholds are calculated using the Moving Epidemic Method (MEM), a sequential analysis using the R Language, available from: http:// CRAN.R-project.org/web/package=mem) designed to calculate the duration, start and end of the annual influenza epidemic. MEM uses the 40th, 90th and 97.5th percentiles established from available years of historical data to calculate thresholds of activity. Thresholds of activity for influenza and RSV are defined as follows: Below seasonal threshold, Low activity, Moderate activity, High activity, Very high activity. For influenza, thresholds from outpatient influenza like illness (Viral Watch Programme) are used as an indicator of disease transmission in the community and thresholds from pneumonia surveillance are used as an indicator of impact of disease.

\$Symptoms include ANY of the following respiratory symptoms: cough, sore throat, shortness of breath, anosmia (loss of sense of smell) or dysgeusia (alteration of the sense of taste), with or without other symptoms (which may include fever, weakness, myalgia, or diarrhoea)

^{*} EC: Eastern Cape; FS: Free State; GP: Gauteng; KZ: KwaZulu-Natal; LP: Limpopo; MP: Mpumalanga: NC: Northern Cape; NW: North West; WC: Western Cape **Started in 2019

^{***}Started in November 2020

^{****}INF: influenza virus; RSV: respiratory syncytial virus; BP: Bordetella pertussis; SARS-CoV-2: severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2

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COMMENTS

Influenza

The influenza 2021 season has not started. Since the first influenza positive case of 2021 was detected in pneumonia surveillance in week 9 of 2021 (week ending on the 07 March 2021), sporadic cases have been reported from week 16 to date. Of the 85 influenza cases detected in surveillance sites in 2021, the majority (n=66. 78%) were influenza B/Victoria.

ILI programme: In 2021 to date, specimens from 1 246 patients meeting ILI case definition were received from 4 ILI sites. Influenza was detected in 13 (1%) patients, of which eight (62%) were influenza B(Victoria), two (15%) were influenza B (lineage inconclusive) and three (23%) were influenza B (lineage pending results). (Figure 1 and Table 1).

Viral Watch programme: In 2021 to date, specimens were received from 169 patients from Viral Watch sites in 5 of the 8 provinces participating in surveillance. Influenza was detected in nine (5%) patients, of which five (56%) were influenza B (Victoria), and four (44%) influenza B (lineage inconclusive) (Figure 5 and Table 4).

Pneumonia surveillance: Since the beginning of 2021, specimens from 4 278 patients with severe respiratory illness (SRI) were received from the 6 sentinel sites. Influenza was detected in 48 (1%) patients, of which five (10%) were influenza A(H3N2), 38 (79%) influenza B (Victoria), one (2%) was influenza B (lineage inconclusive) and four (8%) were influenza B (lineage pending results). (Figure 9 and Table 7).

In addition, influenza B (Victoria) was detected in 15 of 681 (2%) from patients who met suspected SARS-CoV-2 case definition but did not meet the pneumonia/ILI surveillance case definitions.

Respiratory syncytial virus

In 2021 to date, RSV transmission has been reported from all surveillance programmes, activity remains below seasonal threshold.

ILI programme: In 2021 to date, 1 246 specimens were tested and RSV was detected in specimens of 73 (6%) patients.

Viral Watch programme: During the same period, 169 specimens were tested and RSV was detected in specimens of six (4%) patients.

Pneumonia surveillance: Since the beginning of 2021, 4 278 specimens were tested and RSV was detected in specimens of 394 (9%) patients.

In addition, RSV was detected in 21 of 681 (3%) specimens from patients who met suspected SARS-CoV-2 case definition but did not meet the pneumonia/ ILI surveillance case definitions.

Bordetella pertussis

First new case of B. pertussis in 2021 was picked up in week33 from Gauteng Province - Rahima Moosa hospital – a two months old, Female.

ILI programme: From 1 January 2021 to date, combined nasopharyngeal and oropharyngeal specimens were tested from 1 243 patients and B. pertussis was not detected.

Pneumonia surveillance: During the same period, combined nasopharyngeal and oropharyngeal specimens were tested from 4 222 patients and B. pertussis was detected in one (0.02%).

In addition, B. pertussis was not detected in 675 specimens from patients who met suspected B. pertussis case definition but did not meet the pneumonia/ILI surveillance case definition.

SARS-CoV-2 (Severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2)

Testing for SARS-CoV-2 was initiated in all three surveillance programmes in week 10 of 2020 (week starting 2 March 2020).

ILI programme: From March 2020 to date, specimens from 2 559 patients were tested and SARS-CoV-2 was detected in 536 (21%) patients.

Viral Watch programme: From March 2020 to date, specimens were tested from 448 patients and SARS-CoV-2 was detected in 84 (19%) patients.

Pneumonia surveillance: From March 2020 to date, specimens from 8 293 patients with severe respiratory illness (SRI) were tested and SARS-CoV-2 was detected in 1941 (23%) patients.

In addition, SARS-CoV-2 was detected in 179 of 884 (20%) specimens from patients who met suspected SARS-CoV-2 case definition but did not meet the pneumonia/ ILI surveillance case definitions.

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INFLUENZA-LIKE ILLNESS (ILI) SURVEILLANCE PRIMARY HEALTH CARE CLINICS

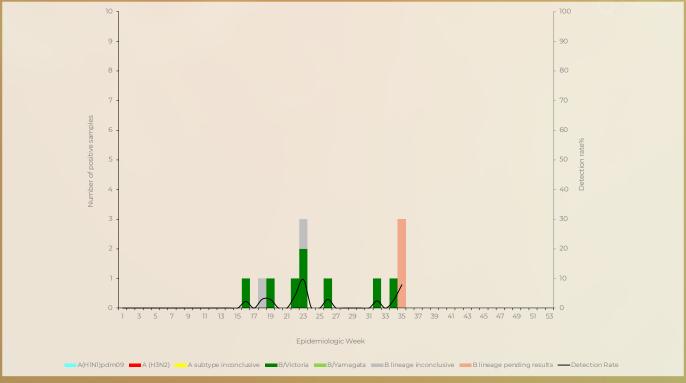


Figure 1. Number of positive samples* by influenza subtype and lineage** and detection rate*** by week

Table 1. Cumulative number of influenza subtype and lineage** and total number of samples tested by clinic and province

Clinic (Province)	A(H1N1) pdm09	A(H3N2)	A subtype inconclusive	B/ Victoria	B/ Yamagata	B lineage inconclusive	B lineage pending results ***	Total samples
Agincourt (MP)	0	0	0	О	0	0	0	171
Eastridge (WC)	0	0	0	О	0	0	2	191
Edendale Gateway (KZ)	0	0	0	3	0	2		155
Jouberton (NW)	0	0	0	5	0	0	О	595
Mitchell's Plain (WC)	0	0	0	О	0	0	0	134
Total:	0	0	0	8	0	2	3	1 246

Inconclusive: insufficient viral load in sample and unable to characterise further

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INFLUENZA-LIKE ILLNESS (ILI) SURVEILLANCE PRIMARY HEALTH CARE CLINICS

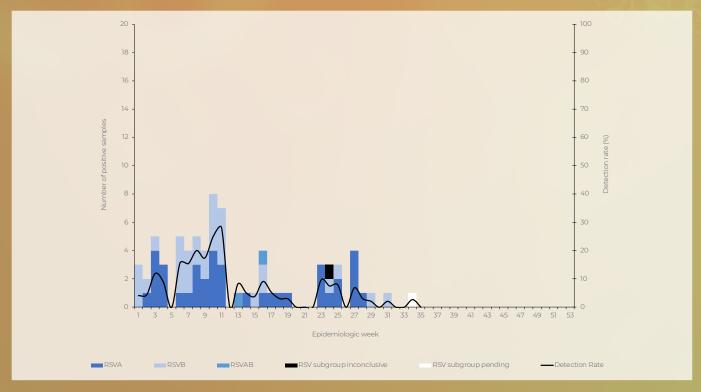


Figure 2. Number of samples testing positive for respiratory syncytial virus** by subgroup and detection rate by week

Table 2. Cumulative number of respiratory syncytial virus subgroups** identified and total number of samples tested by clinic and province

Clinic (Province)	RSVA	RSVB	RSVAB	RSV subgroup inconclusive	RSV subgroup pending*	Total samples
Agincourt (MP)	11	7	1	0	0	171
Eastridge (WC)	22			0	0	191
Edendale Gateway (KZ)		6	0	0	0	155
Jouberton (NW)	2	17	0			595
Mitchell's Plain (WC)	2	0	0	0	0	134
Total	38	31	2	1	1 1	1 246

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INFLUENZA-LIKE ILLNESS (ILI) SURVEILLANCE PRIMARY HEALTH CARE CLINICS

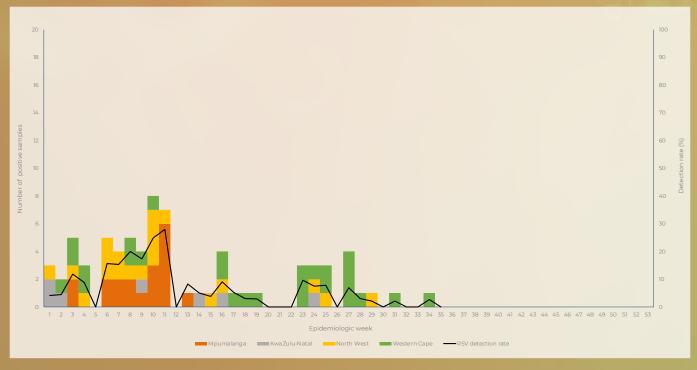


Figure 3. Number of samples testing positive for respiratory syncytial virus* by province and detection rate by week

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INFLUENZA-LIKE ILLNESS (ILI) SURVEILLANCE PRIMARY HEALTH CARE CLINICS



Figure 4. Number of samples testing positive for *B. pertussis* and detection rate by month

Table 3. Cumulative number of B. pertussis identified and total number of samples** tested by province

Clinic (Province)	B. pertussis Positive**	Total samples tested
Agincourt (MP)	0	171
Eastridge (WC)	0	191
Edendale Gateway (KZ)	0	151
Jouberton (NW)	o	605
Mitchell's Plain (WC)	0	125
Total:	0	1243

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INFLUENZA-LIKE ILLNESS (ILI) SURVEILLANCE PRIMARY HEALTH CARE CLINICS

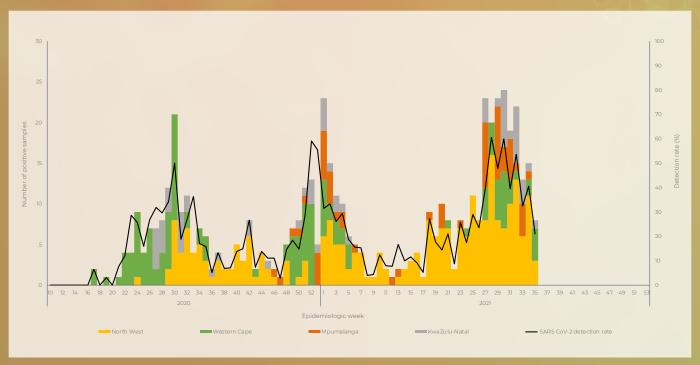


Figure 5. Number of samples testing positive for SARS-CoV-2* by province and detection rate by week

Table 4. Cumulative number of SARS-CoV-2 identified and total number of samples tested by clinic and province

Clinic (Province)	SARS-CoV-2 positive	Total samples tested
Agincourt (MP)	61	201
Eastridge (WC)	58	679
Edendale Gateway (KZ)	63	298
Jouberton (NW)	268	918
Mitchell's Plain (WC)	86	463
Total:	536	2 559

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INFLUENZA-LIKE ILLNESS (ILI) SURVEILLANCE VIRAL WATCH

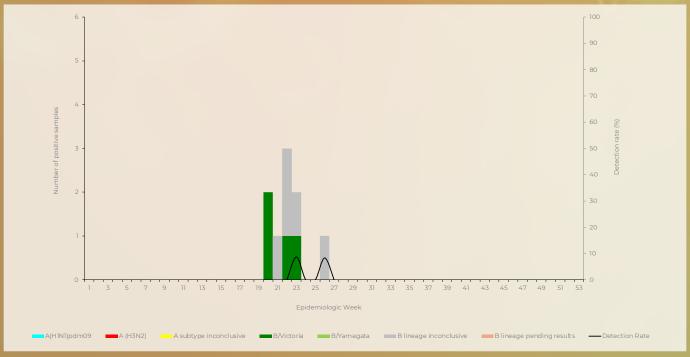


Figure 6. Number of positive samples* by influenza subtype and lineage and detection rate** by week

Table 5. Cumulative number of influenza subtype and lineage and total number of samples tested by province

Province	A(H1N1) pdm09	A(H3N2)	A subtype inconclusive	B/ Victoria	B/ Yamagata	B lineage inconclusive	B lineage pending results*	Total samples
Eastern Cape	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
Free State	0	0	О	О	О	0	0	0
Gauteng	0	0	О		О	4	0	139
Limpopo	0	0	О	О	О	0	0	0
Mpumalanga	0	0	О	О	О	0	0	3
North West	0	0	О	О	0	0	0	2
Northern Cape	0	0	0	О	О	0	0	0
Western Cape	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	24
Total:	0	0	0	5	0	4	0	169

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INFLUENZA-LIKE ILLNESS (ILI) SURVEILLANCE VIRAL WATCH

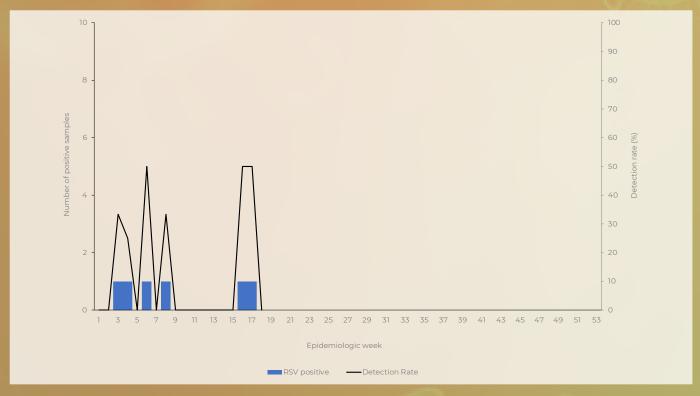


Figure 7. Number of samples testing positive for RSV*, and detection rate by week

Table 6. Cumulative number of RSV positive cases identified and total number of samples tested by province

Clinic (Province)	RSV positive	Total samples tested
Eastern Cape	0	
Free State	0	0
Gauteng	4	139
Limpopo	0	0
Mpumalanga	0	3
North West	0	2
Northern Cape	0	0
Western Cape	2	24
Total:	6	169

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INFLUENZA-LIKE ILLNESS (ILI) SURVEILLANCE VIRAL WATCH

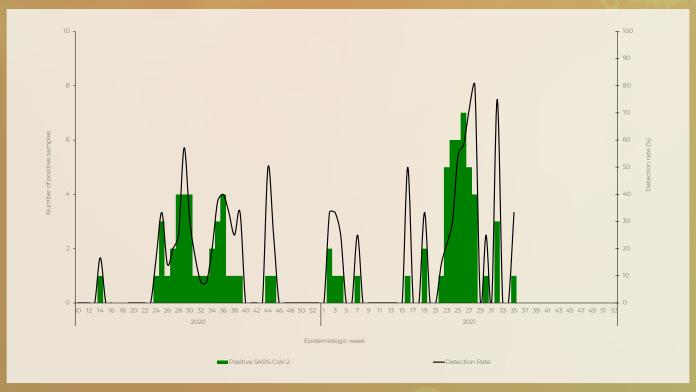


Figure 8. Number of samples testing positive for SARS-CoV-2*, and detection rate by week

Table 7. Cumulative number of SARS-CoV-2 identified and total number of samples tested by province

Clinic (Province)	SARS-CoV-2 positive	Total samples tested
Eastern Cape		5
Free State		14
Gauteng	65	299
Limpopo	0	2
Mpumalanga		8
North West	0	2
Northern Cape	0	2
Western Cape	16	116
Total:	84	448

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NATIONAL SYNDROMIC SURVEILLANCE FOR PNEUMONIA

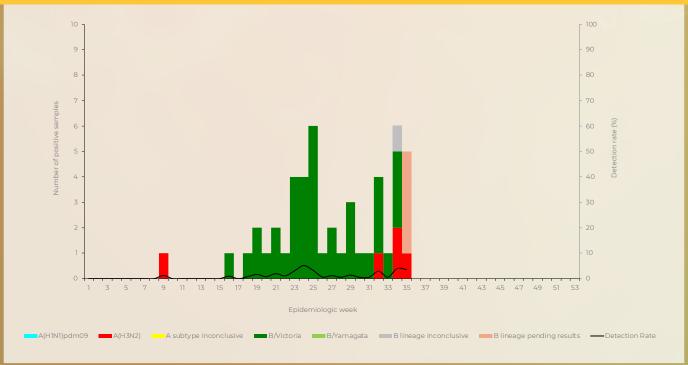


Figure 9. Number of positive samples* by influenza subtype and lineage** and detection rate*** by week

Table 8. Cumulative number of identified influenza subtype and lineage** and total number of samples tested by hospital

Province	A(H1N1) pdm09	A(H3N2)	A subtype inconclusive	B/ Victoria	B/ Yamagata	B lineage inconclusive	B lineage pending results ***	Total samples
Edendale (KZ)	0	0	0	8	0	0	0	661
Helen Joseph-Rahima Moosa (GP)	0	4	0	15	0		2	1097
Klerksdorp-Tshepong (NW)	0	0	0	4	0	0	0	699
Mapulaneng-Matikwana (MP)	0	0	0		0	0	0	426
Red Cross (WC)	0	0	0	9	0	0	2	557
Mitchell's Plain (WC)	0		0	О	0	0	0	666
Tintswalo (MP)	О	0	0	О	0	0	0	172
Total:	0	5	0	38	0	1	4	4 278

GP: Gauteng; KZ: KwaZulu-Natal; NW: North West; MP: Mpumalanga (Tintswalo started enrolling on the 10th Feb 2021); WC: Western Cape

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NATIONAL SYNDROMIC SURVEILLANCE FOR PNEUMONIA

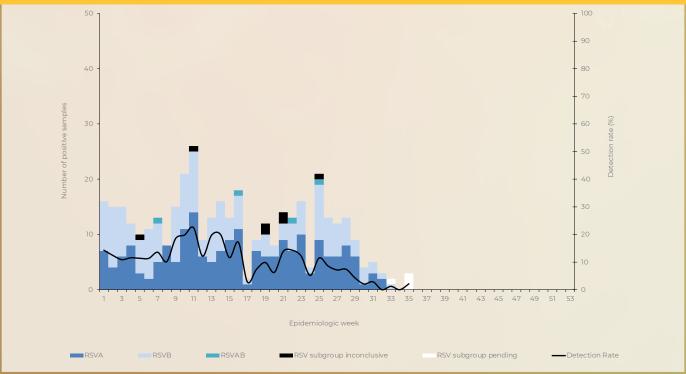


Figure 10. Number of samples testing positive for respiratory syncytial virus* by subgroup and detection rate by week

Table 9. Cumulative number of respiratory syncytial virus subgroups** identified and total number of samples tested by hospital

Hospital (Province)	RSVA	RSVB	RSVAB	RSV subgroup inconclusive	RSV subgroup pending*	Total samples
Edendale (KZ)	5	29	0	0	0	661
Helen Joseph-Rahima Moosa (GP)	37	42	0	0	0	1097
Klerksdorp-Tshepong (NW)	8	44	0	2	0	699
Mapulaneng-Matikwana (MP)	20	7		0	0	426
Red Cross (WC)	84	43	2	4	2	557
Mitchell's Plain (WC)	37	10			2	666
Tintswalo (MP)	10	3	0	0	0	172
Total:	201	178	4	7	4	4 278

Inconclusive: insufficient viral load in sample and unable to characterise further RSV AB: Both RSV A and B subgroup identified

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NATIONAL SYNDROMIC SURVEILLANCE FOR PNEUMONIA

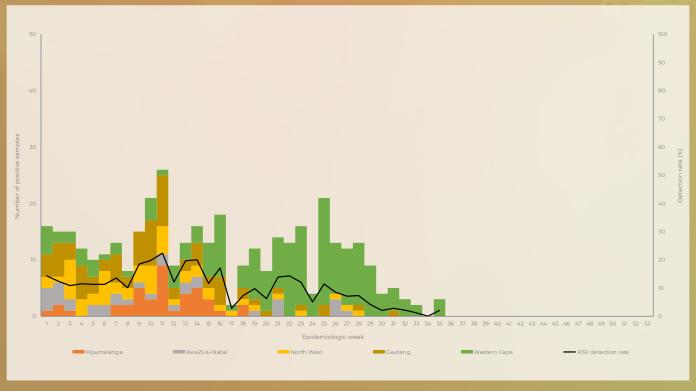


Figure 11. Number of samples testing positive for respiratory syncytial virus* by province and detection rate by week

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NATIONAL SYNDROMIC SURVEILLANCE FOR PNEUMONIA

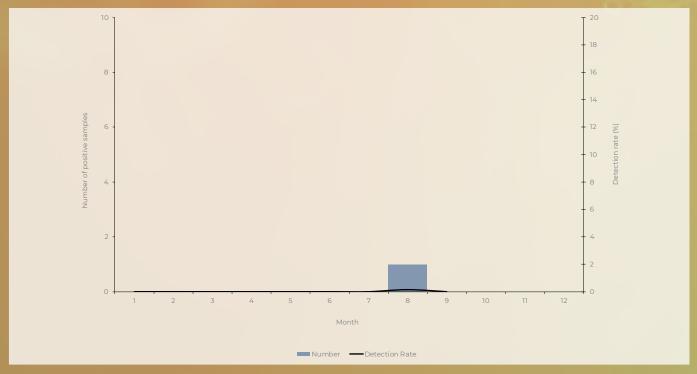


Figure 12. Number of samples testing positive for *B. pertussis* and detection rate by month

Table 10: Cumulative number of B. pertussis identified and total number of samples** tested by hospital and province

Hospital (Province)	B. pertussis Positive**	Total samples
Edendale (KZ)	0	628
Helen Joseph-Rahima Moosa (GP)		1095
Klerksdorp-Tshepong (NW)	O	708
Mapulaneng-Matikwana (MP)	0	414
Red Cross (WC)	O	553
Mitchell's Plain (WC)	0	656
Tintswalo (MP)	0	168
Total:	1 700000000	4 222

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NATIONAL SYNDROMIC SURVEILLANCE FOR PNEUMONIA

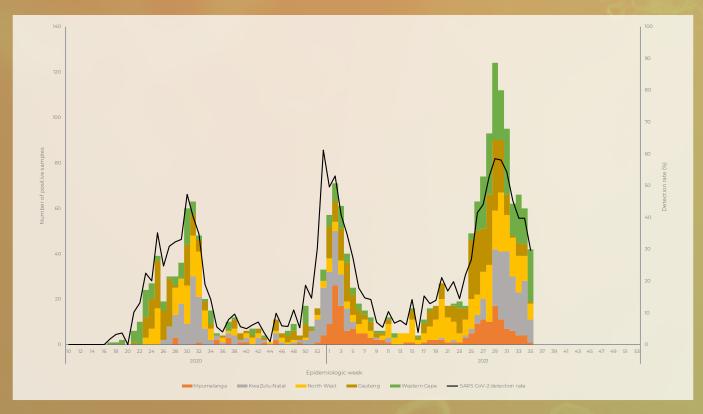


Figure 13. Number of samples testing positive for SARS-CoV-2*, and detection rate by week

Table 11. Cumulative number of identified SARS-CoV-2 and total number of samples tested by hospital

Hospital (Province)	SARS-CoV-2 positive	Total samples tested
Edendale (KZ)	428	1 509
Helen Joseph-Rahima Moosa (GP)	473	1 943
Klerksdorp-Tshepong (NW)	444	1 291
Mapulaneng-Matikwana (MP)	157	728
Red Cross (WC)	57	1 515
Mitchell's Plain (WC)	336	1 136
Tintswalo (MP)	46	171
Total:	1 941	8 293

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SUMMARY OF LABORATORY CONFIRMED SARS-COV-2 CASES

Table 12. Characteristics of laboratory-confirmed cases of COVID-19, enrolled in influenza-like illness (ILI) and pneumonia surveillance programmes, South Africa, 2 March 2020- 05 September 2021

Characteristic	Influenza-like illness (ILI), public-sector, n=678 (%)	Pneumonia, n=1 978 (%)
Age group		
0-9	52/678 (8)	129/1978 (6)
10-19	48/678 (7)	12/1978 (1)
20-39	314/678 (46)	349/1978 (18)
40-59	211/678 (31)	745/1978 (38)
60-79	51/678 (7)	669/1978 (34)
≥80	2/678 (<1)	74/1978 (4)
Sex-female	416/678 (61)	1207/1978 (61)
Province*		
Cauteng	N/A	474/1978 (24)
KwaZulu-Natal	105/678 (16)	433/1978 (22)
Mpumalanga**	84/678 (12)	234/1978 (12)
North West	341/678 (50)	444/1978 (22)
Western Cape	148/678 (22)	393/1978 (20)
Race		
Black	508/671 (76)	1536/1952 (78)
Coloured	133/671 (20)	310/1952 (16)
Asian/Indian	4/671 (1)	48/1952 (2)
White	21/671 (3)	38/1952 (2)
Other	5/671 (1)	20/1952 (1)
Presentation		
Fever	527/671 (79)	919/1952 (47)
Cough	653/671 (97)	1872/1952 (96)
Shortness of breath	242/671 (36)	1529/1952 (78)
Chest pain	289/671 (43)	788/1952 (40)
Diarrhoea	50/671 (7)	119/1952 (6)

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Characteristic	Influenza-like illness (ILI), public-sector, n=678 (%)	Pneumonia, n=1 978 (%)
Underlying conditions		- Control U
Hypertension ^{\$}	17/528 (3)	248/1655 (15)
Cardiac	2/671 (<1)	45/1952 (2)
Lung disease	0/671 (0)	2/1952 (<1)
Diabetes	16/671 (2)	401/1952 (21)
Cancer	2/671 (<1)	12/1952 (1)
Tuberculosis	10/671 (2)	44/1952 (2)
HIV-infection	126/671 (19)	416/1952 (21)
Other ***	12/671 (2)	90/1952 (5)
Management		
Oxygen therapy	9/669 (1)	1473/1910 (77)
ICU admission	N/A	40/1910 (2)
Ventilation	N/A	49/1910 (3)
Outcome***		
Died	0/661 (0)	299/1774 (17)

Note: Children may be over-represented amongst hospitalised patients due to the inclusion of a large paediatric hospital in Cape Town.

Of the 299 patients who died, three were in <20 age group, 21 in the 20-39 year age group, 99 in the 40-59 year age group, and 176 were ≥60 years; 172/299 (58%) were female.

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